

daiquiris of course
for three years I slept in barracks
that had been occupied by Nazi officers
did guard duty in their towers
surrounded by barbed wire
20 years after their defeat
a Jew in their quarters
it was too much
my head was swimming with all this shit
I decided to buy a typewriter at the BX
& learn how to write

on leave

I was tanned & fit
Melvin was on the way out
he was 25
my mother had taken him in
when he was 16
now cirrhosis was taking over
he died just before I left for NY
I had one week left
since my plane to Italy left from NY
I decided to see my father
for the first time in 3 years
meet his new wife
they took me to Toots Shors
Radio City
where I saw Johnny Carson taping his show
my last night
they took me to see Streisand live
in Funny Girl
there was a young woman sitting next to me
who offered me some of her candy
she was alone & play hopping
my father kept nudging me to go with her
he thought she was some celebrities' daughter
I never asked
it was probably the best visit with him
I ever had

survival technique

never let your mind kick you
in the butt